

Interview



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What is interview?

- Interviews are *a data collection technique* that uses question asking to elicit the information you want.
- Interviews are the most common method of gathering data for qualitative research (Savin-Baden & Major, 2013).
- A conversation between two individuals (Q&A).
- The type of data gathered is based on *experiences, points of view, and feelings*.

Origins of Interviews

- Date from the early 1990s with anthropological studies and ethnographic approaches (Savin-Baden & Major, 2013).
- Interviews developed with observation. These two approaches are used together as a method of data collection.
- Key Scholars: Seidman Irving, Robert S.Weiss

Why Interview?

The purpose of interviewing is to understand other people's experiences and its meanings (Seidman, 2013).



When to Use

- ***Formal Interviews:*** Structured setting, seeking factual information, have enough time, etc.
- ***Informal Interviews:*** Easy access, natural/spontaneous, unobtrusive
- ***Semi-structural Interviews:*** Mix of structured/formal interviews and unstructured/informal, have a protocol, but build in flexibility
- ***Phone Interviews:*** Anonymity, limited access to the research site, lack of budget, little time for travel, interviewee's social cues are not important, etc.
- ***E-mail Interviews:*** Commonly used, long distance between an interviewer and an interviewee, need extra time for an interviewee to respond, etc.

Strengths & Weaknesses

Interview Types	Strengths	Weaknesses
Formal Interviews	In-depth information, structured	Time consuming, rigid/unresponsive to participants
Informal Interviews	More flexible than other types, more natural, responsive to participants	Possible lack of privacy, inconsistent data between participants, possible lack of specific goals
Semi-structured Interviews	Mix of structure and flexibility, responsive to participants while having structure	Relies on the inter-personal skills of the interviewer (Ethically very sensitive). Need to assess the types of questions to be asked, issues of confidentiality, etc.
Phone Interviews	Quick, inexpensive, effective with large groups.	Random ending without warning or explanation. Finding a mutually convenient time is not easy.
E-mail Interviews	Flexible time management, Convenient for participant (location), Ongoing Conv.	Technical problems (Lack of internet access), Confidentiality issue.

Scenario

Every year, 10 to 20 teachers are sent to teach Chinese language in K-12 schools in Portland by the Office of Chinese Language Council in Beijing.

Currently, I am working as a coordinator to help facilitate the assignment of these teachers to different school districts. I have developed friendship with these teachers. I want to interview them to find out how these teachers form their teaching identity which is represented by their teaching perception, attitudes, and their teaching practice in their one to three years teaching in the U.S. classroom.

Positionality

- Interviewing friends vs. strangers.
- Interviewer as an insider vs. outsider.
- Interviewees from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.



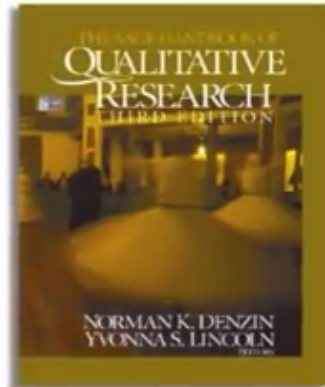
Interview Questions

- Tell me why you became a Chinese language teacher.
- Tell me what you feel about teaching Chinese language the US.
- What impresses you most in the U.S.classroom?
- Are the students in the US the same as those students you taught in China? In what way are they the same or different?
- How do you prepare for the class?
- How do you interact with students in class?
- Tell me about your educational background.
- Tell me about your Chinese language teaching experiences.
- How long have you been teaching?
- What grade do you teach?
- Where did you learn to teach in China?
- What is the best way to learn a language?

"The Qualitative Research Interview:

Past, Present, & Future Directions"

AN ARTICLE SUMMARY



Fontana, A. & Frey, J. H.
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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nb70vhcCf8w>

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